

24 January 1964 **Control System**

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD State Department review completed **Com-5**

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Special Group Meeting, 23 January 1964

PRESENT: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Vance, and General Carter.

Also present were Mr. Bromley Smith, Mr. James Cunningham,
and Mr. Eugene Kiefer.

South Vietnam - Photographic Coverage.

DIA review(s) completed.

Mr. James Cunningham indicated that on 17 January 1964, USIB had considered the validity of the original proposal (never formally presented to the Special Group) and had found a certain divergence of views between the field and Washington. General Carter interposed that the matter had been raised with the JCS and they favored the idea.

As a result of this divergence, Messrs. William A. Tidwell of CIA and John T. Hughes of DIA have departed for the theatre to determine whether local theatre facilities are sufficient so that the photographic results can be of practical use in the area. They were also to determine the attitude in the field (a) as to whether the missions were to be run on a covert or semi-overt basis, and (b) whether or not the Vietnamese government should be made cognizant of this effort and its eventual results.

OSD review completed.

Mr. Vance stated that two factors should be determined immediately: whether a mosaic or base line photography was desired and what equipment should be committed. He said he was in favor of base line photography as being the most useful for this theatre, and he recommended the use of the U-2 (without thereby establishing a precedent for its use in similar base line photography projects). The other members present concurred in the views that base line photography was preferable and in the use of the U-2 for this mission.

NSC Review Completed

Mr. Cunningham indicated that, depending on weather factors, with the two U-2 aircraft available the requirement could be accomplished by three successful flight missions.

Mr. Johnson then stated that the Special Group members should be made aware of the Tidwell/Hughes report promptly and if the decision was to make the flights overt, the Special Group would merely make note of the fact, but if the recommendation was for a covert operation, the matter should be referred to the Special Group without delaying accomplishment of the mission.

*Cunningham says we can NOT
Fly until last IP is satisfied.* **Peter Jessup**

Distribution
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Vance
Mr. McCone

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